

Message Text

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16

ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 SR-02 ORM-01 VO-03 SCA-01 OPR-02 EB-07

CU-02 INSE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 IO-10 IGA-01 /084 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE NIACT 3074

INFO DOD

JCS

CINCPAC

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 6050

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, VS, RP

SUBJECT: VIET-NAM REFUGEE SHIPS

REF: MANILA 5983

1. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MELCHOR TELEPHONED ME AFTERNOON MAY 7 TO CONFIRM THAT GOP CONSIDERED QUESTION OF TITLE TO VIETNAMESE NAVY FLOTILLA HAD BEEN SOLVED BY DEVICE OF TRANSFERRING TITLE TO U.S. NAVY OUTSIDE PHILIPPINE WATERS. HE ASSURED ME INSTRUCTIONS WOULD BE GIVEN TO ADMIRAL RUIZ TO HAVE PHIL NAVY AND PMLO RESPECT U.S. FLAG AND TITLE.

2. I EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THIS ISSUE WAS RESOLVED BUT REMINDED MELCHOR THERE WERE STILL TWO VESSELS AND ONE AIRCRAFT WHICH HAD ALREADY BEEN "INTERNEED." HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT REMAINED A PROBLEM AND SAID MARCOS INSTRUCTIONS WERE TO GET U.S. TITLE ALSO CLEARED ON THIS EQUIPMENT. HE SAID THEY HAD NOT RPT NOT YET FOUND A
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DEVICE BUT WOULD WELCOME ANY SUGGESTIONS WE HAD.

3. MELCHOR WENT ON TO SAY THAT MARCOS HAD AGREED TO ACCEPT LIMITED NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE AND CAMBODIAN REFUGEES ON CASE BY CASE BASIS. HE WOULD ISSUE LETTER OF INSTRUCTION ON THIS TOMORROW BUT WOULD NOT RPT NOT PUBLICIZE IT FOR FEAR OF CAUSING FLOOD FROM HONG KONG AND SINGAPORE. MELCHOR SAID POLICY WOULD INCLUDE THOSE VIETNAMESE WHO HAD FILIPINO CONNECTIONS, VIETNAMESE AND CAMBODIAN STUDENTS STUDYING IN THIS COUNTRY, REPRESENTATIVES AT ADB, AND OTHERS.

4. I EXPRESSED INTEREST IN COMPARING NOTES AND NAMES WITH GOP SO THAT WE WOULD KNOW WHICH REFUGEES WHO HAD APPEALED TO US WOULD BE AUTHORIZED PHILIPPINE ASYLUM. MELCHOR AGREED, SAYING THEY WERE STILL STUDYING WHETHER TO GIVE THEM STATUS AS PERMANENT RESIDENTS OR AS IMMIGRANTS.

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Message Attributes

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